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## Approved For Release 49976969 VEFA REPE 2-00457 RO0500041 INFORMATION REPORT CD NO.

12 JUN 50

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SUBJECT French Atomic Energy Commission

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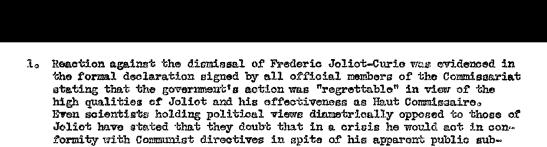
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- 20 There has been increasing resistance in Fronch scientific circles to the serious consideration being given Jean Thibaud\*for the position of Haut-Commissaire. Several influential members of the Haut Commissariat have stated to source that if he were appointed practically the entire personnel of the French Atomic Energy Commission would resign. These individuals, who include Francis Porrin and Bertrand Goldschmidt, have indicated to the government the desirability of leaving the post unfilled for the next few months, at least until January 1951 when all the original five-year contracts held by personnel in the Commissariat will expire .\*\*
- 25X1X6 3. states, however, that it is generally believed that Thibaud, if appointed, would conduct a ruthless and necessary purge of Communist elements in atomic energy research centers. Jolict's principal assistents. Lew Kowarski, Jules Gueron and Bertrand Goldschmidt, would be among the first to be dropped in view of the fact that they are personal adversaries of Thibaud. With the dismissal of these three individuals source believes that the Communists would lose their influence in atomic research circles. \*\*\*
  - 40 A further individual who has recently been rumored as a possible eventual successor to Joliot is Andre Lichnerowicz, mathematician and "charge de mission" in the cabinet of Robert Prigent, Secretary of State to the Presidence du Conseil. Lichnerowicz recently accompanied Prigent on a surprise visit to French Atomic Energy installations.

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Comments

mission to their discipline,

which mentioned Thibaud among others as a possible successor to Joliot.

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\*\* See for Ferrin's opinion in greater detail.

\*\*\* Lew Kowarski is the only one of these individuals who has been reported as a possible Communist. Gueron, although an anti-Communist,
was reputedly so under the influence of Joliot that he appointed
Communists in his section in order to placate Joliot.

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